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Remarks

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THE WHITE HOUSE &

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July 6, 1983

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Improved Intelligence on Arms Deliveries to Nicaragua (TS)

On June 2, the President authorized specific actions to interdict the flow of seaborn arms in Nicaragua. Adverse weather conditions in the Nicaraguan port areas have prevented our overhead systems from providing coverage adequate to launch these capabilities. Given the duration of the rainy season in the region, it is unlikely that we will be able to provide accurate/timely information on the El Bluff or Corinto areas by these immediate future. (TS)

If the activities which the President has approved are to succeed, we must urgently explore alternative collection methods. Would you therefore, in concert, determine whether we can, through coordinated DOD and CIA resources, improve on our collection against these arms shipments. (TS)

We should seek to develop a coordinated plan which considers: \.

Priority ELINT collection/dissemination against arms transport shipping.
Full utilization of NOSIC data on merchant ship movements.

The use of SSNs which could react to specific targets, confirm locations, and relay pertinent data to those who

would attack the target. (TS)

It is well recognized that such a commitment will detract from other missions for our limited SSN and ELINT assets. Despite these limitations, our interdiction effort must be given a priority it we are to improve prospects for El Salvador and slow the pace of aims. build-up in Nicaragua. (TS)

Would you please forward your coordinated plan for review by the President by July 15, 1983. (TS)

William P. Clark

cc: GEN John W. Vessey, Jr., Chairman, JCS LTG Lincoln D. Faurer, Director, NSA

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